(c) The number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras to be established in Orissa State in 1985-86 will be decided after we are intimated about the resources being made available to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research from the Government of India for this purpose.

Self-sufficiency in foodgrain production

2071. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to achieve self-sufficiency in production of foodgrains;

(b) whether increase in the consumption of fertiliser is a part of these measures; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps taken to streamline the supply of fertilisers to different States and to increase their consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Measures to achieve self-sufficiency in production of foodgrains include the adoption of improved crop production technology by way of use of quality seed of high yielding varieties, application of fertilisers, provision of irrigation facilities, timely supply of credit and critical inputs, better farm management and marketing support, agriculture extension and research support.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To meet the 'mutually-agreed-to' requirements of fertilisers for each State and for each season, a supply plan allocating quantities to be supplied by each manufacturer to the respective States, is drawn up in consultation with the States and the manufacturers and circulated well before commencement of the season. Sufficient stocks of imported material are procured and allotted to States where the requirement is not fully met through indigenous supplies. Apart from the monitoring done by the States themselves, the Central Government keep a close watch on the trends of supplies through the control room set up in the Ministry of Agriculture and also by organising frequent review meetings with the suppliers and the States. The constraints, if any, in supply of fertilisers to the States are identified in these review meetings and necessary correctives are applied so as to ensure adequate and timely availability of fertilisers in the States.

A statement giving details of the steps taken to increase use of fertilisers is enclosed. (*See below*)

Statement

Steps taken to increase fertilizer consumption

(1) Adequate and timely availability of fertilisers through domestic production and import has been ensured.

(2) An Intensive Fertiliser Promotion Campaign in selected districts where consumption potential exists and at present the consumption is low, has been launched. The number of districts covered under the scheme has been raised from 67 in 1981 to 104 at present.

(3) Delivery of fertilisers is made on Government account upto Block level all over the country, instead of upto Rail head destination as hithertofore.

(4) The distribution margin to the distributing agencies was increased by about 22 per cent w.e.f. 15.8.1981. This has been further increased w.e.f. 20.5.1983.

(5) The quantum of short term loans to the States for purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs, including fertilisers has been raised from Rs. 136 crores in 1979-80 to Rs. 200 crores in 1980-81 and 1981-82, to Rs. 250 crores in 1982-83 and to Rs. 260 crores in 1983-84, 1984-85 and also 1985-86.

(6) In order to ensure easy availability of fertilisers near the Consuming Centres,

the number of sale points were raised from 1.11 lakh on 30.11.1981 to 1.47 lakh on 31.3.1984.

(7) The prices of all varieties of fertilisers have been reduced by about 7.5 per cent w.e.f. 29.6.1983.

(8) Favourable cost-benefit ratio has been ensured by increasing the support prices of crops to reflect the increase in fertilisers prices. Whereas in 1982-83, 4.19 kg. of Paddy were needed to buy one kg. of nitrogen nutrient, at present only 3.41 kg. will be needed as a result of reduction in price of fertilisers w.e.f. 29.6.1983 and enhancement of the support price of Paddy.

Tenancy reforms

2072. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued guidelines to various States to bring about comprehensive measures for tenancy reforms;

(b) if so, the names of the States where measures have been taken for tenancy reforms; and

(c) what are the details of the directives proposed to be issued to other States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) The policy regarding tenancy reforms as spelt out in the successive Five Year Plan documents approved by the National Development Council, emphasised:—

(i) Security of tenure by regulation of conditions of eviction and rent at 1|4th or 1|5th of the gross produce and

(ii) Conferment of ownership rights on the tenants.

The maximum rates of rent have been fixed as not exceeding 1|4th of gross produce in all States except in Andhra Pradesh (Andhra area), Haryana and Punjab.

Legislative measures have been taken for providing security of tenure to tenants by prohibiting ejectment except under specified conditions such as for non-payment of rent, misuse of land, sub-letting etc.

Legislative provisions have been made in extensive areas of the country providing for conferment of ownership rights on tenants or allowing cultivating tenants to acquire ownership rights on payment of reasonable compensation to the landlords. Some of the States have acquired ownership of land from the landlords and had transferred it to the tenants who have to pay a certain compensation to the State. These are Andhra Pradesh (Telengana Area), Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

Land reforms being a State subject under the Constitution, no Central directive can be issued. However, these were discussed in a Conference of State Revenue Ministers on 18.5.85 and the following general consensus on tenancy reforms has been communicated to the States for taking appropriate action:

(a) A detailed investigation may be undertaken in the States|UTs. to find out the extent and spread of informal tenancies and a drive may be undertaken by the official machinery with the help of Panchayats, voluntary organisations and local people to bring on record all insecure informal and oral tenants and share-croppers, irrespective of whether tenancy is recognised or abolished in the State. Unnecessary exemptions permitting leases and tenants, except for specified disabled categories, may be done away with Legislative provision, where non-existent, to be enacted for conferment of ownership rights on all categories of tenants including bargadars, excepting the exempted categories.

(b) Provision for barring lawyers in proceedings relating to conferment of ownership rights on tenants may be considered.